#### BEFORE THE BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Accusation and Petition to Revoke Probation Against:

KATHY GAYLE SKEELS aka KATHY GAYLE CLAVERT aka KATHY GAYLE McCLERNON aka KATHY GAYLE ELDER

6368 Desert Queen Avenue Twentynine Palms, CA 92277-2521

Registered Nurse License No. RN 484175

Respondent.

Case No. 2008-102

#### **DECISION AND ORDER**

The attached Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby adopted by the Board of Registered Nursing, Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in this matter.

This Decision shall become effective on APRIL 9, 2008.

It is so ORDERED APRIL 9, 2008.

FOR THE BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

	H		
1	EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General		
2	of the State of California KAREN B. CHAPPELLE		
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General GLORIA A. BARRIOS, State Bar No. 94811		
4	Supervising Deputy Attorney General California Department of Justice		
5	300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702		
	Los Angeles, CA 90013 Telephone: (213) 897-2540		
6 7	Facsimile: (213) 897-2804 E-mail: gloria.barrios@doj.ca.gov		
8	Attorneys for Complainant		
9	BEFORE T		
10	BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA		
11	In the Matter of the Accusation and Petition to	Case No. 2008-102	
12	Revoke Probation Against:		
13	KATHY GAYLE SKEELS aka KATHY GAYLE CLAVERT aka KATHY GAYLE	STIPULATED SURRENDER OF	
14	McCLERNON aka KATHY GAYLE ELDER 6368 Desert Queen Avenue	LICENSE AND ORDER	
15	Twentynine Palms, CA 92277-2521		
16	Registered Nurse License No. RN 484175		
17	Respondent.		
18			
19	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AND	AGREED by and between the parties in this	
20	proceeding that the following matters are true:		
21	PARTIE	<u>s</u>	
22	1. Ruth Ann Terry, M.P.H., R.N. (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of		
23	the Board of Registered Nursing. She brought this action solely in her official capacity and is		
24	represented in this matter by Edmund G. Brown Jr., Attorney General of the State of California,		
25	by Gloria A. Barrios, Supervising Deputy Attorney General.		
26	2. Kathy Gayle Skeels aka Kathy	Gayle Clavert aka Kathy Gayle McClernon	
27	aka Kathy Gayle Elder (Respondent) represents hers	elf in this proceeding.	
28	111		

3. On or about August 31, 1992, the Board of Registered Nursing (the Board) issued Registered Nurse License No. RN 484175 to Kathy Gayle Skeels aka Kathy Gayle Clavert aka Kathy Gayle McClernon aka Kathy Gayle Elder. The license was in full force and effect at all times relevant to the charges brought in Petition to Revoke Probation and Accusation in Case No. 2008-102 and will expire on May 31, 2008, unless renewed. Effective December 19, 2005, the Board in a disciplinary action entitled "In the Matter of the Accusation Against Kathy Gayle Skeels aka Kathy Gayle Clavert aka Kathy Gayle McClernon aka Kathy Gayle Elder," Case No. 2002-109, issued a decision, in which Respondent's Registered Nurse License was revoked. However, the revocation was stayed and Respondent's license was placed on probation for a period of three (3) years with certain terms and conditions. A copy of that decision is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference.

#### **JURISDICTION**

4. The Accusation and Petition to Revoke Probation Case No. 2008-102 was filed before the Board, Department of Consumer Affairs, and is currently pending against Respondent. The Accusation and Petition and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on October 6, 2007. Respondent timely filed her Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation and Petition. A copy of the Accusation and Petition Case No. 2008-102 is attached as exhibit B and incorporated herein by reference.

#### ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

Respondent has carefully read and understands the charges and allegations

- - understands the effects of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order.

5.

- 6. Respondent is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the Accusation and Petition; the right to be represented by counsel, at her own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her; the right to present evidence and to testify on her own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of

in the Accusation and Petition Case No. 2008-102. Respondent also has carefully read, and

documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.

7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

#### **CULPABILITY**

- 8. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in the Accusation and Petition Case No. 2008-102, agrees that cause exists for discipline and hereby surrenders her Registered Nurse License No. RN 484175 for the Board's formal acceptance.
- 9. Respondent understands that by signing this stipulation she enables the Board to issue an order accepting the surrender of her Registered Nurse License without further process.

#### CONTINGENCY

- Nursing. Respondent understands and agrees that counsel for Complainant and the staff of the Board of Registered Nursing may communicate directly with the Board regarding this stipulation and settlement, without notice to or participation by Respondent. By signing the stipulation, Respondent understands and agrees that she may not withdraw her agreement or seek to rescind the stipulation prior to the time the Board considers and acts upon it. If the Board fails to adopt this stipulation as its Decision and Order, the Stipulated Surrender and Disciplinary Order shall be of no force or effect, except for this paragraph, it shall be inadmissible in any legal action between the parties, and the Board shall not be disqualified from further action by having considered this matter.
- 11. The parties understand and agree that facsimile copies of this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order, including facsimile signatures thereto, shall have the same force and effect as the originals.
- 12. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the (Board) may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Order:

#### <u>ORDER</u>

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Registered Nurse License No. RN 484175, issued to Respondent Kathy Gayle Skeels aka Kathy Gayle Clavert aka Kathy Gayle McClernon aka Kathy Gayle Elder is surrendered and accepted by the Board of Registered Nursing.

- 13. The surrender of Respondent's Registered Nurse License and the acceptance of the surrendered license by the Board shall constitute the imposition of discipline against Respondent. This stipulation constitutes a record of the discipline and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Board.
- 14. Respondent shall lose all rights and privileges as a registered nurse in California as of the effective date of the Board's Decision and Order.
- 15. Respondent shall cause to be delivered to the Board both her wall and pocket license certificate on or before the effective date of the Decision and Order.
- application for licensure or a petition for reinstatement in the State of California, the Board shall treat it as a petition for reinstatement. Respondent must comply with all the laws, regulations and procedures for reinstatement of a revoked license in effect at the time the petition is filed, and all of the charges and allegations contained in the Petition Case No. 2003-100 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent when the Board determines whether to grant or deny the petition.
- 17. Upon reinstatement of the license, Respondent shall pay to the Board costs associated with its investigation and enforcement pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3 in the amount of Five Thousand, Five Hundred Dollars and No Cents (\$5, 500.00). Respondent shall be permitted to pay these costs in a payment plan approved by the Board.
- 18. Should Respondent ever apply or reapply for a new license or certification, or petition for reinstatement of a license, by any other health care licensing agency in the State of California, all of the charges and allegations contained in the Accusation and Petition Case No. 2008-102 shall be deemed to be true, correct, and admitted by Respondent for the purpose of any Statement of Issues or any other proceeding seeking to deny or restrict licensure.

1	19. Respondent shall not apply for licensure or petition for reinstatement for		
2	two (2) years from the effective date of the Board of Registered Nursing's Decision and Order.		
3	<u>ACCEPTANCE</u>		
4	I have carefully read the above Stipulated Surrender of License and Order. I		
5	understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Registered Nurse License. I enter		
6	into this Stipulated Surrender of License and Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and		
7	agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Registered Nursing.		
8	DATED: 12-22-06		
9	$O_{1}$		
10	KATHY GAYLE SKEELS aka KATHY GAYLE		
11	CLAVERT aka KATHY GAYLE  CLAVERT aka KATHY GAYLE McCLERNON aka  KATHY GAYLE ELDER		
12	RATHY GAYLE ELDER Respondent		
13			
14	<u>ENDORSEMENT</u>		
15	The foregoing Stipulated Surrender of License and Order is hereby respectfully		
16	submitted for consideration by the Board of Registered Nursing of the Department of Consumer		
17	Affairs.		
18			
19	DATED: 1 7 08		
20	EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General of the State of California		
21	ALFREDO TERRAZAS		
22	Senior Assistant Attorney General		
23			
24	Ste A 6		
25	GLORIA A. BARRIOS Supervising Deputy Attorney General		
26	Attorneys for Complainant		
27	recomeys for Complainant		
28	Matter 1D: LA2005601293		

Exhibit B
Petition to Revoke Probation No. 2008-102
Accusation No. 2008-102

1 2	EDMUND G. BROWN JR. Attorney General of the State of California KAREN B. CHAPPELLE,				
3	Supervising Deputy Attorney General GLORIA BARRIOS, State Bar No. 94811				
4	Supervising Deputy Attorney General California Department of Justice				
5	300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013				
6	Telephone: (213) 897-2540 Facsimile: (213) 897-2804				
7	Attorneys for Complainant				
8	BEFORE THE				
9	BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA				
10		- 100 (-5			
11	In the Matter of the Petition to Revoke Probation Against:	Case No. 2008-102			
12	KATHY GAYLE SKEELS				
13	aka KATHY GAYLE CLAVERT aka KATHY GAYLE McCLERNON	PETITION TO REVOKE PROBATION			
14	aka KATHY GAYLE ELDER 6368 Desert Queen Avenue	TRODATION			
15	Twentynine Palms, CA 92277-2521				
16	Registered Nurse License No. 484175				
17	Respondent.				
18	Complainant alleges:				
19 20	<u>PARTIE</u>	<u>s</u>			
21	1. Ruth Ann Terry, M.P.H., R.N.	(Complainant) brings this Petition to			
22	Revoke Probation solely in her official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of				
23	Registered Nursing, Department of Consumer Affairs (Board).				
24	2. On or about August 31, 1992, the Board issued Registered Nurse License				
25	No. 484175 to Kathy Gayle Skeels aka Kathy Gayle Clavert aka Kathy Gayle McClemon aka				
26	Kathy Gayle Elder (Respondent). Effective December				
27	in a disciplinary action entitled "In the Matter of the	•			
28	Gayle Skeels aka Kathy Gayle Clavert aka Kathy Gay	yle McClernon aka Kathy Gayle Elder,"			

Case No. 2002-109, issued a decision, in which Respondent's Registered Nurse License was revoked. However, the revocation was stayed and Respondent's license was placed on probation for a period of three (3) years with certain terms and conditions. A copy of that decision is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated by reference. Respondent's Registered Nurse License expires on May 31, 2008.

#### **JURISDICTION**

- 3. This Petition to Revoke Probation is brought before the Board, under the authority of the following laws. All Section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.
- 4. Section 2750 provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may discipline any licensee, including a licensee holding a temporary or an inactive license, for any reason provided in Article 3 (commencing with section 2750) of the Nursing Practice Act.
- 5. Section 2764 provides, in pertinent part, that the expiration of a license shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee or to render a decision imposing discipline on the license. Under Section 2811, subdivision (b), the Board may renew an expired license at any time within eight years after the expiration.
- 6. Section 118, subdivision (b), provides that the suspension, expiration, surrender or cancellation of a license shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary action during the period within which the license may be renewed, restored, reissued or reinstated.
- 7. Section 125.3 provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

#### PETITION TO REVOKE PROBATION

#### **PROBATION TERMS**

8. Among the terms and conditions imposed on Respondent by the Board in

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WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board of Registered Nursing issue a decision:

1. Revoking the probation that was granted by the Board of Registered Nursing in Case No. 2002-109 and imposing the disciplinary order that was stayed thereby revoking Registered Nurse License No. 484175 issued to Kathy Gayle Skeels aka Kathy Gayle Clavert aka Kathy Gayle McClernon aka Kathy Gayle Elder;

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1	2. Revoking or suspending Registered Nurse License No. 484175, issued to
2	Kathy Gayle Skeels aka Kathy Gayle Clavert aka Kathy Gayle McClernon aka Kathy Gayle
3	Elder;
4	3. Ordering Kathy Gayle Skeels aka Kathy Gayle Clavert aka Kathy Gayle
5	McClernon aka Kathy Gayle Elder to pay the Board of Registered Nursing the reasonable costs
6	of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code
7	section 125.3;
8	4. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.
9	
10	DATED: 9/24/07
11	
12	Rute Day T
13	RUTH ANN TERRY, M.P.H., R.N. Executive Officer
14	Board of Registered Nursing Department of Consumer Affairs
15	State of California
16	Complainant
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24	LA2007600933  SKEELPET.WPD  6/4/7006mph
25	6/4/2006gab
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1	EDMUND G. BROWN JR., Attorney General of the State of California				
2	KAREN B. CHAPPELLE Supervising Deputy Attorney General				
3	GLORIA A. BARRIOS, State Bar No. 94811 Supervising Deputy Attorney General				
4	California Department of Justice				
5	300 So. Spring Street, Suite 1702 Los Angeles, CA 90013				
6	Telephone: (213) 897-2540 Facsimile: (213) 897-2804				
7	Attorneys for Complainant				
8	BEFORE '				
9	BOARD OF REGISTS DEPARTMENT OF CON	SUMER AFFAIRS			
10	STATE OF CAL	LIFORNIA			
11	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 2008-102			
12	KATHY GAYLE SKEELS	1			
13	aka KATHY GAYLE CLAVERT aka KATHY GAYLE McCLERNON	ACCUSATION			
14	aka KATHY GAYLE ELDER 6368 Desert Queen Avenue				
15	Twentynine Palms, CA 92277-2521				
16	Registered Nurse License No. 484175	; 			
17	Respondent.				
18					
19	Complainant alleges:				
20	PARTIE	<u> 28</u>			
	1. Ruth Ann Terry, M.P.H., R.N	. (Complainant) brings this Accusation			
21	solely in her official capacity as the Executive Office	er of the Board of Registered Nursing,			
22	Department of Consumer Affairs.				
23	2. On or about August 31, 1992, the Board of Registered Nursing issued				
24	Registered Nurse License No. 484175 to Kathy Gayle Skeels aka Kathy Gayle Clayert aka Kathy				
25					
26					
27	full force and effect at all times relevant to the charge	es brought herein and will expire on May 31,			
28	2008, unless renewed.				
ľ					

**JURISDICTION** 

3. This Accusation is brought before the Board of Registered Nursing (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs, under the authority of the following laws. All section references are to the Business and Professions Code unless otherwise indicated.

#### **STATUTORY PROVISIONS**

- 4. Section 2750 of the Business and Professions Code (Code) provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may discipline any licensee, including a licensee holding a temporary or an inactive license, for any reason provided in Article 3 (commencing with section 2750) of the Nursing Practice Act.
- 5. Section 2764 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the expiration of a license shall not deprive the Board of jurisdiction to proceed with a disciplinary proceeding against the licensee or to render a decision imposing discipline on the license. Under section 2811(b) of the Code, the Board may renew an expired license at any time within eight years after the expiration.
  - 6. Section 2761 of the Code states:

"The board may take disciplinary action against a certified or licensed nurse or deny an application for a certificate or license for any of the following:

- "(a) Unprofessional conduct, which includes, but is not limited to, the following:
- "(f) Conviction of a felony or of any offense substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a registered nurse, in which event the record of the conviction shall be conclusive evidence thereof."
  - 7. Section 2762 of the Code states:

"In addition to other acts constituting unprofessional conduct within the meaning of this chapter [the Nursing Practice Act], it is unprofessional conduct for a person licensed under this chapter to do any of the following:

"(a) Obtain or possess in violation of law, or prescribe, or except as directed by a licensed physician and surgeon, dentist, or podiatrist administer to himself or herself, or furnish

or administer to another, any controlled substance as defined in Division 10 (commencing with Section 11000) of the Health and Safety or any dangerous device as defined in Section 4022."

8. Section 490 of the Code states:

"A board may suspend or revoke a license on the ground that the licensee has been convicted of a crime, if the crime is substantially related to the qualifications, functions, or duties of the business or profession for which the license was issued. A conviction within the meaning of this section means a plea or verdict of guilty or a conviction following a plea of nolo contendere. Any action which a board is permitted to take following the establishment of a conviction may be taken when the time for appeal has elapsed, or the judgment of conviction has been affirmed on appeal, or when an order granting probation is made suspending the imposition of sentence, irrespective of a subsequent order under the provisions of Section 1203.4 of the Penal Code."

9. California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1444, states:

"A conviction or act shall be considered to be substantially related to the qualifications, functions or duties of a registered nurse if to a substantial degree it evidences the present or potential unfitness of a registered nurse to practice in a manner consistent with the public health, safety, or welfare."

10. Section 125.3 of the Code provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

#### 11. CONTROLLED SUBSTANCE

a. Methamphetamine is a Schedule II controlled substances as defined in Health and Safety Code section 11055(d)(2) and is categorized as a dangerous drug pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 4022 of the Code.

#### FIRST CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

#### (Conviction of a Substantially Related Crimes)

12. Respondent has subjected her license to disciplinary action under section

2761, subdivision (f), in conjunction with section 490 as defined in California Code of Regulations, title 16, section 1444, on the grounds of unprofessional conduct in that Respondent was convicted of a substantially related crime. The circumstances are as follows:

A. On or about October 30, 2006, Respondent was convicted by the Court on a plea of nolo contendere to one count of violating Health and Safety Code section 11379(a), a felony, (transportation of a controlled substance) and Health and safety Code section 11378, a felony, (possession for sale of a controlled substance in the Superior Court of the State of California, County of San Bernardino, Joshua Tree District, Case No. FMB008506, entitled The People of the State of California v. Kathy Gayle Skeels.

B. The circumstances surrounding the conviction are that on or about October 19, 2006 San Bernardino sheriff officers served a search warrant on respondent at her home. Respondent attempted to hide her handbag. A search revealed six plastic baggies containing a white crystal substance (Methamphetamine). Officers also discovered a can with five additional baggies containing a white crystal substance (Methamphetamine). Other items discovered were numerous plastic baggies commonly used to package controlled substances, a "pay-owe" sheet, \$52.00 dollars in cash, a small electronic scale commonly used to measure small amounts of controlled substances.

#### SECOND CAUSE FOR DISCIPLINE

#### (Possession of a Controlled Substance)

13. Respondent is subject to disciplinary action under section 2761, subdivision (d) as defined in section 2762, subdivision (a) on the grounds of unprofessional conduct for violating Health and Safety Code section 11378 in that Respondent possessed a controlled substance, to wit: Methamphetamine, to herself as more fully set forth in paragraph 12, above.

#### **PRAYER**

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board of Registered Nursing issue a decision:

1	1. Revoking or suspending Registered Nurse License No. 484175, issued to
2	Kathy Gayle Skeels aka Kathy Gayle Clavert aka Kathy Gayle McClernon aka Kathy Gayle
3	Elder.
4	2. Ordering Kathy Gayle Skeels aka Kathy Gayle Clavert aka Kathy Gayle
5	McClernon aka Kathy Gayle Elder to pay the Board of Registered Nursing the reasonable costs
6	of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Business and Professions Code
7	section 125.3;
8	3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.
9	DATED: 9/24107
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11	2 10 1 - 7
12	RUTH ANN TERRY, M.P.H., R.N. Executive Officer
13	Board of Registered Nursing Department of Consumer Affairs
14	State of California Complainant
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# Exhibit A Decision and Order Board of Registered Nursing Case No. 2002-109

#### BEFORE THE BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation Against:	Case No. 2002 -109
KATHY GAYLE SKEELS	OAH No. L - 2002060542
Respondent.	

### **DECISION AND ORDER**

The attached Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby adopted by the Board of Registered Nursing, Department of Consumer Affairs, as its Decision in this matter.

This Decision shall	become effective on _	DECEMBER	19,	2005	
It is so ORDERED	November 18, 200	<u>)5                                    </u>			-

FOR THE BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS

1 2 3 4 5 6 7	BILL LOCKYER, Attorney General of the State of California. RICHARD D. GARSKE, State Bar No. 50569 Supervising Deputy Attorney General California Department of Justice 110 West "A" Street, Suite 1100 San Diego, CA 92101  P.O. Box 85266 San Diego, CA 92186-5266 Telephone: (619) 645-2075 Facsimile: (619) 645-2061  Attorneys for Complainant	
8		
9	BEFORE BOARD OF REGISTE	ERED NURSING
10	DEPARTMENT OF CON STATE OF CAL	SUMER AFFAIRS LIFORNIA
11		
12	In the Matter of the First Amended Accusation Against:	Case No. 2002 -109
13	KATHY GAYLE SKEELS	OAH No. L - 2002060542
14	6368 Desert Queen Avenue Twentynine Palms, CA 92277-2521	STIPULATED SETTLEMENT AND DISCIPLINARY ORDER
15	Respondent.	
16		
17		
18	IT IS HEREBY STIPULATED AN	D AGREED by and between the parties to
19	the above-entitled proceedings that the following ma	_
20	i was a same trans the removing ma	ators are true.
	i wasanga sama waa sama waga mu	iters are true.
21	PARTIE	
21 22	<u>PARTIE</u>	<u>S</u>
	PARTIE 1. Ruth Ann Terry, M.P.H., R.N.	S (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of
22	PARTIE  1. Ruth Ann Terry, M.P.H., R.N. the Board of Registered Nursing. She brought this ac	S (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of ction solely in her official capacity and is
22 23	PARTIE 1. Ruth Ann Terry, M.P.H., R.N.	S  (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of ction solely in her official capacity and is General of the State of California, by
22 23 24	PARTIE  1. Ruth Ann Terry, M.P.H., R.N. the Board of Registered Nursing. She brought this acrepresented in this matter by Bill Lockyer, Attorney C. Richard D. Garske, Supervising Deputy Attorney Gen	S (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of ction solely in her official capacity and is General of the State of California, by neral.
22 23 24 25	PARTIE  1. Ruth Ann Terry, M.P.H., R.N. the Board of Registered Nursing. She brought this acrepresented in this matter by Bill Lockyer, Attorney C. Richard D. Garske, Supervising Deputy Attorney Gen	S  (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of ction solely in her official capacity and is General of the State of California, by
22 23 24 25 26	PARTIE  1. Ruth Ann Terry, M.P.H., R.N. the Board of Registered Nursing. She brought this ac represented in this matter by Bill Lockyer, Attorney ( Richard D. Garske, Supervising Deputy Attorney Get  2. Kathy Gayle Skeels (Responde	S (Complainant) is the Executive Officer of ction solely in her official capacity and is General of the State of California, by neral.

3. On or about August 31, 1992, the Board of Registered Nursing issued Registered Nurse License Number 484175 to Respondent. The license will expire on May 31, 2006, unless renewed.

#### **JURISDICTION**

4. Accusation No. 2002-109 was filed before the Board of Registered Nursing (Board), Department of Consumer Affairs. The Accusation and all other statutorily required documents were properly served on Respondent on January 15, 2002. Respondent timely filed her Notice of Defense contesting the Accusation. The First Amended Accusation was filed July 29, 2002 and was properly served on respondent on August 14, 1992. A copy of First Amended Accusation No. 2002 -109 is attached as Exhibit A and incorporated herein by reference.

#### ADVISEMENT AND WAIVERS

- 5. Respondent has carefully read, and understands the charges and allegations in First Amended Accusation No. 2002 -109. Respondent has also carefully read, and understands the effects of this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order.
- 6. Respondent is fully aware of her legal rights in this matter, including the right to a hearing on the charges and allegations in the First Amended Accusation; the right to be represented by counsel at her own expense; the right to confront and cross-examine the witnesses against her; the right to present evidence and to testify on her own behalf; the right to the issuance of subpoenas to compel the attendance of witnesses and the production of documents; the right to reconsideration and court review of an adverse decision; and all other rights accorded by the California Administrative Procedure Act and other applicable laws.
- 7. Respondent voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently waives and gives up each and every right set forth above.

#### **CULPABILITY**

8. Respondent admits the truth of each and every charge and allegation in First Amended Accusation No. 2002-109.

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14. In consideration of the foregoing admissions and stipulations, the parties agree that the Board may, without further notice or formal proceeding, issue and enter the following Disciplinary Order:

#### **DISCIPLINARY ORDER**

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Registered Nurse License No. 484175 issued to Respondent Kathy Gayle Skeels is revoked. However, the revocation is stayed and Respondent is placed on probation for three (3) years on the following terms and conditions.

Severability Clause. Each condition of probation contained herein is a separate and distinct condition. If any condition of this Order, or any application thereof, is declared unenforceable in whole, in part, or to any extent, the remainder of this Order, and all other applications thereof, shall not be affected. Each condition of this Order shall separately be valid and enforceable to the fullest extent permitted by law.

1. **Obey All Laws.** Respondent shall obey all federal, state and local laws. A full and detailed account of any and all violations of law shall be reported by Respondent to the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours of occurrence. To permit monitoring of compliance with this condition, Respondent shall submit completed fingerprint forms and fingerprint fees within 45 days of the effective date of the decision, unless previously submitted as part of the licensure application process.

Criminal Court Orders: If Respondent is under criminal court orders, including probation or parole, and the order is violated, this shall be deemed a violation of these probation conditions, and may result in the filing of an accusation and/or petition to revoke probation.

2. Comply with the Board's Probation Program. Respondent shall fully comply with the conditions of the Probation Program established by the Board and cooperate with representatives of the Board in its monitoring and investigation of the Respondent's compliance with the Board's Probation Program. Respondent shall inform the Board in writing within no more than 15 days of any address change and shall at all times maintain an active, current license status with the Board, including during any period of suspension.

restored.

Upon successful completion of probation, Respondent's license shall be fully

- 3. Report in Person. Respondent, during the period of probation, shall appear in person at interviews/meetings as directed by the Board or its designated representatives.
- 4. Residency, Practice, or Licensure Outside of State. Periods of residency or practice as a registered nurse outside of California shall not apply toward a reduction of this probation time period. Respondent's probation is tolled, if and when she resides outside of California. Respondent must provide written notice to the Board within 15 days of any change of residency or practice outside the state, and within 30 days prior to re-establishing residency or returning to practice in this state.

Respondent shall provide a list of all states and territories where she has ever been licensed as a registered nurse, vocational nurse, or practical nurse. Respondent shall further provide information regarding the status of each license and any changes in such license status during the term of probation. Respondent shall inform the Board if she applies for or obtains a new nursing license during the term of probation.

5. Submit Written Reports. Respondent, during the period of probation, shall submit or cause to be submitted such written reports/declarations and verification of actions under penalty of perjury, as required by the Board. These reports/declarations shall contain statements relative to Respondent's compliance with all the conditions of the Board's Probation Program. Respondent shall immediately execute all release of information forms as may be required by the Board or its representatives.

Respondent shall provide a copy of this Decision to the nursing regulatory agency in every state and territory in which she has a registered nurse license.

6. Function as a Registered Nurse. Respondent, during the period of probation, shall engage in the practice of registered nursing in California for a minimum of 24 hours per week for 6 consecutive months or as determined by the Board.

For purposes of compliance with the section, "engage in the practice of registered nursing" may include, when approved by the Board, volunteer work as a registered nurse, or work in any non-direct patient care position that requires licensure as a registered nurse.

The Board may require that advanced practice nurses engage in advanced practice nursing for a minimum of 24 hours per week for 6 consecutive months or as determined by the Board.

If Respondent has not complied with this condition during the probationary term, and Respondent has presented sufficient documentation of her good faith efforts to comply with this condition, and if no other conditions have been violated, the Board, in its discretion, may grant an extension of Respondent's probation period up to one year without further hearing in order to comply with this condition. During the one year extension, all original conditions of probation shall apply.

7. Employment Approval and Reporting Requirements. Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board before commencing or continuing any employment, paid or voluntary, as a registered nurse. Respondent shall cause to be submitted to the Board all performance evaluations and other employment related reports as a registered nurse upon request of the Board.

Respondent shall provide a copy of this Decision to her employer and immediate supervisors prior to commencement of any nursing or other health care related employment.

In addition to the above, Respondent shall notify the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours after she obtains any nursing or other health care related employment. Respondent shall notify the Board in writing within seventy-two (72) hours after she is terminated or separated, regardless of cause, from any nursing, or other health care related employment with a full explanation of the circumstances surrounding the termination or separation.

8. Supervision. Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board regarding Respondent's level of supervision and/or collaboration before commencing or continuing any employment as a registered nurse, or education and training that includes patient care.

Respondent shall practice only under the direct supervision of a registered nurse in good standing (no current discipline) with the Board of Registered Nursing, unless alternative methods of supervision and/or collaboration (e.g., with an advanced practice nurse or physician) are approved.

Respondent's level of supervision and/or collaboration may include, but is not limited to the following:

- (a) Maximum The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration is present in the patient care area or in any other work setting at all times.
- (b) Moderate The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration is in the patient care unit or in any other work setting at least half the hours Respondent works.
- (c) Minimum The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration has person-to-person communication with Respondent at least twice during each shift worked.
- (d) Home Health Care If Respondent is approved to work in the home health care setting, the individual providing supervision and/or collaboration shall have person-to-person communication with Respondent as required by the Board each work day. Respondent shall maintain telephone or other telecommunication contact with the individual providing supervision and/or collaboration as required by the Board during each work day. The individual providing supervision and/or collaboration shall conduct, as required by the Board, periodic, on-site visits to patients' homes visited by Respondent with or without Respondent present.
- 9. **Employment Limitations.** Respondent shall not work for a nurse's registry unless approved by the Board. Additionally, respondent shall not work in any private duty position as a registered nurse, a temporary nurse placement agency, a traveling nurse, or for an in-house nursing pool.

Respondent shall not work for a licensed home health agency as a visiting nurse unless the registered nursing supervision and other protections for home visits have been approved by the Board. Respondent shall not work in any other registered nursing occupation where home visits are required.

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Respondent shall not work in any health care setting as a supervisor of registered nurses. The Board may additionally restrict Respondent from supervising licensed vocational nurses and/or unlicensed assistive personnel on a case-by-case basis.

Respondent shall not work as a faculty member in an approved school of nursing or as an instructor in a Board approved continuing education program.

Respondent shall work only on a regularly assigned, identified and predetermined worksite(s) and shall not work in a float capacity.

If Respondent is working or intends to work in excess of 40 hours per week, the Board may request documentation to determine whether there should be restrictions on the hours of work.

10. Complete a Nursing Course(s). Respondent, at her own expense, shall enroll and successfully complete a course(s) relevant to the practice of registered nursing no later than six months prior to the end of her probationary term.

Respondent shall obtain prior approval from the Board before enrolling in the course(s). Respondent shall submit to the Board the original transcripts or certificates of completion for the above required course(s). The Board shall return the original documents to Respondent after photocopying them for its records.

11. Cost Recovery. Respondent shall pay to the Board costs associated with its investigation and enforcement pursuant to Business and Professions Code section 125.3 in the amount of Five Thousand Five Hundred Dollars (\$5,500.00). Respondent shall be permitted to pay these costs in a payment plan approved by the Board, with payments to be completed no later than three months prior to the end of the probation term.

If Respondent has not complied with this condition during the probationary term, and Respondent has presented sufficient documentation of her good faith efforts to comply with this condition, and if no other conditions have been violated, the Board, in its discretion, may grant an extension of Respondent's probation period up to one year without further hearing in order to comply with this condition. During the one year extension, all original conditions of probation will apply.

12. Violation of Probation. If Respondent violates the conditions of her probation, the Board after giving Respondent notice and an opportunity to be heard, may set aside the stay order and impose the stayed discipline (revocation/suspension) of Respondent's license.

If during the period of probation, an accusation or petition to revoke probation has been filed against Respondent's license or the Attorney General's Office has been requested to prepare an accusation or petition to revoke probation against Respondent's license, the probationary period shall automatically be extended and shall not expire until the accusation or petition has been acted upon by the Board.

13. License Surrender. During Respondent's term of probation, if she ceases practicing due to retirement, health reasons or is otherwise unable to satisfy the conditions of probation, Respondent may surrender her license to the Board. The Board reserves the right to evaluate Respondent's request and to exercise its discretion whether to grant the request, or to take any other action deemed appropriate and reasonable under the circumstances, without further hearing. Upon formal acceptance of the tendered license and wall certificate, Respondent will no longer be subject to the conditions of probation.

Surrender of Respondent's license shall be considered a disciplinary action and shall become a part of Respondent's license history with the Board. A registered nurse whose license has been surrendered may petition the Board for reinstatement no sooner than the following minimum periods from the effective date of the disciplinary decision:

- (1) Two years for reinstatement of a license that was surrendered for any reason other than a mental or physical illness; or
  - (2) One year for a license surrendered for a mental or physical illness.
- 14. Physical Examination. Within 45 days of the effective date of this Decision, Respondent, at her expense, shall have a licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant, who is approved by the Board before the assessment is performed, submit an assessment of the Respondent's physical condition and capability to perform the duties of a registered nurse. Such an assessment shall be submitted in a format acceptable to the Board. If

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medically determined, a recommended treatment program will be instituted and followed by the Respondent with the physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant providing written reports to the Board on forms provided by the Board.

If Respondent is determined to be unable to practice safely as a registered nurse, the licensed physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant making this determination shall immediately notify the Board and Respondent by telephone, and the Board shall request that the Attorney General's office prepare an accusation or petition to revoke probation. Respondent shall immediately cease practice and shall not resume practice until notified by the Board. During this period of suspension, Respondent shall not engage in any practice for which a license issued by the Board is required until the Board has notified Respondent that a medical determination permits Respondent to resume practice. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this probationary time period.

If Respondent fails to have the above assessment submitted to the Board within the 45-day requirement, Respondent shall immediately cease practice and shall not resume practice until notified by the Board. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this probationary time period. The Board may waive or postpone this suspension only if significant, documented evidence of mitigation is provided. Such evidence must establish good faith efforts by Respondent to obtain the assessment, and a specific date for compliance must be provided. Only one such waiver or extension may be permitted.

15. Participate in Treatment/Rehabilitation Program for Chemical Dependence. Respondent, at her expense, shall successfully complete during the probationary period or shall have successfully completed prior to commencement of probation a Boardapproved treatment/rehabilitation program of at least six months duration. As required, reports shall be submitted by the program on forms provided by the Board. If Respondent has not completed a Board-approved treatment/rehabilitation program prior to commencement of probation, Respondent, within 45 days from the effective date of the decision, shall be enrolled in a program. If a program is not successfully completed within the first nine months of probation, the Board shall consider Respondent in violation of probation.

Based on Board recommendation, each week Respondent shall be required to attend at least one, but no more than five 12-step recovery meetings or equivalent (e.g., Narcotics Anonymous, Alcoholics Anonymous, etc.) and a nurse support group as approved and directed by the Board. If a nurse support group is not available, an additional 12-step meeting or equivalent shall be added. Respondent shall submit dated and signed documentation confirming such attendance to the Board during the entire period of probation. Respondent shall continue with the recovery plan recommended by the treatment/rehabilitation program or a licensed mental health examiner and/or other ongoing recovery groups.

16. Abstain from Use of Psychotropic (Mood-Altering) Drugs. Respondent shall completely abstain from the possession, injection or consumption by any route of all psychotropic (mood altering) drugs, including alcohol, except when the same are ordered by a health care professional legally authorized to do so as part of documented medical treatment. Respondent shall have sent to the Board, in writing and within fourteen (14) days, by the prescribing health professional, a report identifying the medication, dosage, the date the medication was prescribed, the Respondent's prognosis, the date the medication will no longer be required, and the effect on the recovery plan, if appropriate.

Respondent shall identify for the Board a single physician, nurse practitioner or physician assistant who shall be aware of Respondent's history of substance abuse and will coordinate and monitor any prescriptions for Respondent for dangerous drugs, controlled substances or mood-altering drugs. The coordinating physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant shall report to the Board on a quarterly basis Respondent's compliance with this condition. If any substances considered addictive have been prescribed, the report shall identify a program for the time limited use of any such substances.

The Board may require the single coordinating physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant to be a specialist in addictive medicine, or to consult with a specialist in addictive medicine.

17. Submit to Tests and Samples. Respondent, at her expense, shall participate in a random, biological fluid testing or a drug screening program which the Board

approves. The length of time and frequency will be subject to approval by the Board. Respondent is responsible for keeping the Board informed of Respondent's current telephone number at all times. Respondent shall also ensure that messages may be left at the telephone number when she is not available and ensure that reports are submitted directly by the testing agency to the Board, as directed. Any confirmed positive finding shall be reported immediately to the Board by the program and Respondent shall be considered in violation of probation.

In addition, Respondent, at any time during the period of probation, shall fully cooperate with the Board or any of its representatives, and shall, when requested, submit to such tests and samples as the Board or its representatives may require for the detection of alcohol, narcotics, hypnotics, dangerous drugs, or other controlled substances.

If Respondent has a positive drug screen for any substance not legally authorized and not reported to the coordinating physician, nurse practitioner, or physician assistant, and the Board files a petition to revoke probation or an accusation, the Board may suspend Respondent from practice pending the final decision on the petition to revoke probation or the accusation. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this probationary time period.

If Respondent fails to participate in a random, biological fluid testing or drug screening program within the specified time frame, Respondent shall immediately cease practice and shall not resume practice until notified by the Board. After taking into account documented evidence of mitigation, if the Board files a petition to revoke probation or an accusation, the Board may suspend Respondent from practice pending the final decision on the petition to revoke probation or the accusation. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this probationary time period.

18. Mental Health Examination. Respondent shall, within 45 days of the effective date of this Decision, have a mental health examination including psychological testing as appropriate to determine her capability to perform the duties of a registered nurse. The examination will be performed by a psychiatrist, psychologist or other licensed mental health practitioner approved by the Board. The examining mental health practitioner will submit a written report of that assessment and recommendations to the Board. All costs are the

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responsibility of Respondent. Recommendations for treatment, therapy or counseling made as a result of the mental health examination will be instituted and followed by Respondent.

If Respondent is determined to be unable to practice safely as a registered nurse, the licensed mental health care practitioner making this determination shall immediately notify the Board and Respondent by telephone, and the Board shall request that the Attorney General's office prepare an accusation or petition to revoke probation. Respondent shall immediately cease practice and may not resume practice until notified by the Board. During this period of suspension, Respondent shall not engage in any practice for which a license issued by the Board is required, until the Board has notified Respondent that a mental health determination permits Respondent to resume practice. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this probationary time period.

If Respondent fails to have the above assessment submitted to the Board within the 45-day requirement, Respondent shall immediately cease practice and shall not resume practice until notified by the Board. This period of suspension will not apply to the reduction of this probationary time period. The Board may waive or postpone this suspension only if significant, documented evidence of mitigation is provided. Such evidence must establish good faith efforts by Respondent to obtain the assessment, and a specific date for compliance must be provided. Only one such waiver or extension may be permitted.

19. Therapy or Counseling Program. Respondent, at her expense, shall participate in an on-going counseling program until such time as the Board releases her from this requirement and only upon the recommendation of the counselor. Written progress reports from the counselor will be required at various intervals.

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#### **ACCEPTANCE**

I have carefully read the Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order. I understand the stipulation and the effect it will have on my Registered Nurse License Number 484175. I enter into this Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order voluntarily, knowingly, and intelligently, and agree to be bound by the Decision and Order of the Board of Registered Nursing.

DATED: 7-27-05

KATHY GAYLE SKEELS

Respondent

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#### **ENDORSEMENT**

The foregoing Stipulated Settlement and Disciplinary Order is hereby respectfully submitted for consideration by the Board of Registered Nursing of the Department of Consumer Affairs.

DATED: 10/20/05-

BILL LOCKXER, Attorney General of the State of California

RICHARD D. GARSKE

Supervising Deputy Attorney General

Attorneys for Complainant

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# Exhibit A First Amended Accusation No. 2002 -109

1			
2	of the State of California TIMOTHY L. NEWLOVE, State Bar No. 73428		
3	Deputy Attorney General California Department of Justice		
4	110 West "A" Street, Suite 1100 San Diego, CA 92101		
5	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1		
	San Diego, CA 92186-5266		
6	Facsimile: (619) 645-2061		
7	Attorneys for Complainant		
8			
9	BEFORE	THE	
10	BOARD OF REGISTERED NURSING DEPARTMENT OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS		
11	STATE OF CAI	LIFORNIA	
12	In the Matter of the Accusation Against:	Case No. 2002-109	
13	KATHY GAYLE SKEELS	5.00 110. 2002-107	
14	aka KATHY GAYLE CLAVERT aka KATHY GAYLE McCLERNON	EIDCT AMENDED	
15	aka KATHY GAYLE ELDER 6368 Desert Queen Avenue	FIRST AMENDED ACCUSATION	
16	Twentynine Palms, California 92277-2521		
17	Registered Nurse License No. 484175	·	
	Respondent.		
18			
19	Complainant alleges:		
20	<u>PARTIE</u>	<u>2</u>	
21	1. Ruth Ann Terry, M.P.H., R.N.	(Complainant) brings this First Amended	
22	Accusation solely in her official capacity as the Executive Officer of the Board of Registered		
23	Nursing, Department of Consumer Affairs.		
24	2. On or about August 31, 1992, the Board of Registered Nursing ("Board")		
25	issued Registered Nurse License Number 484175 to Kathy Gayle Skeels, aka Kathy Gayle		
26	Clavert, Kathy Gayle McClernon, and Kathy Gayle Elder ("Respondent"). The license will		
27	expire on May 31, 2004, unless renewed.	The heelise will	
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#### STATUTORY PROVISIONS

- 3. Business and Professions Code section 2750 provides, in pertinent part, that the Board may discipline any licensee, including a licensee holding a temporary or an inactive license, for any reason provided in Article 3 (commencing with section 2750) of the Nursing Practice Act.
- Business and Professions Code section 2761(a) states, in pertinent part, that the Board may take disciplinary action against a certified or licensed nurse or deny an application for a certificate or license for unprofessional conduct.
- 5. Business and Professions Code section 2761(f) provides that unprofessional conduct includes conviction of a felony or of any offense substantially related to the qualifications, functions, and duties of a registered nurse.
  - 6. Business and Professions Code section 2762 provides:

"In addition to other acts constituting unprofessional conduct within the meaning of this chapter [the Nursing Practice Act], it is unprofessional conduct for a person licensed under this chapter to do any of the following:

- "(a) Obtain or possess in violation of law, or prescribe, or except as directed by a licensed physician and surgeon, dentist, or podiatrist administer to himself or herself, or furnish or administer to another, any controlled substance as defined in Division 10 (commencing with Section 11000) of the Health and Safety Code or any dangerous drug or dangerous device as defined in Section 4022.
- "(b) Use any controlled substance as defined in Division 10 (commencing with Section 11000) of the Health and Safety Code, or any dangerous drug or dangerous device as defined in Section 4022, or alcoholic beverages, to an extent or in a manner dangerous or injurious to himself or herself, any other person, or the public or to the extent that such use impairs his or her ability to conduct with safety to the public the practice authorized by his or her license."

- "(c) Be convicted of a criminal offense involving the prescription, consumption, or self-administration of any of the substances described in subdivisions (a) and (b) of this section . . ."
- 7. Business and Professions Code section 125.3 states, in pertinent part, that the Board may request the administrative law judge to direct a licentiate found to have committed a violation or violations of the licensing act to pay a sum not to exceed the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of the case.

#### <u>FACTS</u>

- 8. At all times material herein, Amphetamine was and is a Schedule II controlled substance as designated by Health and Safety Code section 11055(d)(1), and a dangerous drug within the meaning of Business and Professions Code section 4022.
- 9. At all times material herein, Methamphetamine was and is a Schedule II controlled substance as designated by Health and Safety Code section 11055(d)(2), and a dangerous drug within the meaning of Business and Professions Code section 4022.
- 10. On or about September 28, 2000, while assigned to work as registered nurse at Desert Regional Medical Center from Staffing Resources, a nurse registry, respondent appeared impaired and was requested to take a drug screen and blood alcohol test. The result of the drug screen were positive for Amphetamine and Methamphetamine.
- 11. On or about February 14, 2001, two investigators from the Division of Investigation visited respondent at her house and requested respondent to provide a urine sample for drug testing. The results of the drug test were positive for Amphetamine and Methamphetamine.
- 12. On or about October 18, 2001, in the Superior Court of California, County of Riverside, Indio Branch, Case No. INM 11646, respondent SKEELS was convicted upon her plea of guilty of violating Health and Safety Code section 11550(a) (under the influence of a controlled substance). The facts and circumstances behind this conviction are described in paragraph 10 hereinabove.

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#### PRAYER

WHEREFORE, Complainant requests that a hearing be held on the matters herein alleged, and that following the hearing, the Board issue a decision:

- 1. Revoking or suspending Registered Nurse License Number 484175, issued to Kathy Gayle Skeels, aka Kathy Gayle Clavert, Kathy Gayle McClernon, and Kathy Gayle Elder;
- 2. Ordering Kathy Gayle Skeels, aka Kathy Gayle Clavert, Kathy Gayle McClernon, and Kathy Gayle Elder to pay the Board the reasonable costs of the investigation and enforcement of this case, pursuant to Code section 125.3; and
  - 3. Taking such other and further action as deemed necessary and proper.

DATED: 7 29102	
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RUTH ANN TERRY, M.P.H., R.N.

Executive Officer

Board of Registered Nursing Department of Consumer Affairs

State of California Complainant

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